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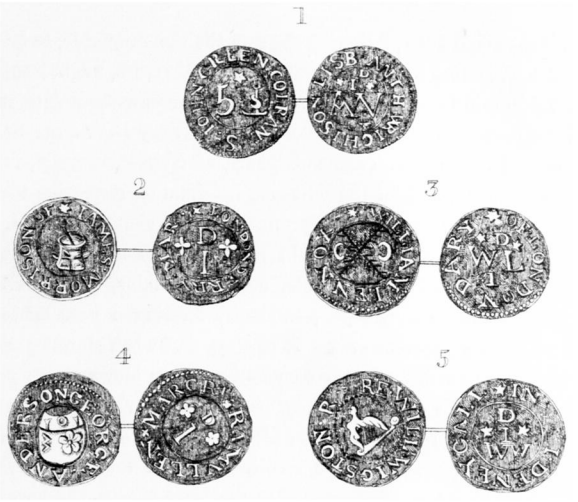

NOTICES OF LOCAL TOKENS ISSUED IN ULSTER.—No. 4.

In addition to the articles on the Local Tokens of Ulster which have already appeared in this Journal, it will be desirable to bring under notice such other tokens as may be discovered, and which may happen to be unpublished. The accompanying five are of that character, being, so far as the writer is aware, entirely *unique*.

No. 1 was found recently in Lisburn, and seems rather difficult to explain, as it appears to present on each side a different name; the residence or place of issue in both cases being also two distinct towns far separate from one another. I confess myself quite at a loss to explain this anomaly; but perhaps some of the readers of the Journal who have bestowed attention on this branch of Numismatics (if an inquiry into the history of local tokens can be dignified with such a title) will be able to throw some light on it, or to say whether any other examples of the kind are known. The contraction "Lisb." taken in connection with the locality in which the token was found, can scarcely be understood to have any other meaning than "Lisburn;" or, if any other of a character at all probable could be suggested, then it might be considered as a Coleraine token only; but this would require that the legend on that side should be understood to refer by some means to a place, and not to a person, which it more naturally seems to do. Could the two individuals have been co-partners in trade, or under some other arrangement have mutually agreed to adopt the novel design of a joint token? What at first sight appears to be a misshapen figure 5 seems to be rather IG, the latter letter inverted; but I cannot discover the meaning or allusion in the letters or character adjoining it in the

field. How, again, is the small *t* or *r*, following the s on the Coleraine side, to be explained? Possibly some readers in that town, either from local knowledge or otherwise, might be able to offer an explanation. This curious token is in excellent preservation, and though without date, may be safely described as one of the 17th century. It is in the possession of the Very Rev. Dean Stannus, of Lisburn.

The writer is indebted to the Rev. Thomas Olphert, of Newtonlimavady, for the drawings of the other four tokens on the plate, and for the following information respecting them. They belong to his brother, Wybrants Olphert, Esq., of Ballyconnell House, county Donegal, on whose property at Ballynass Bay, in that county, they were found; together with numerous specimens in bronze, of pins, rings, spurs, buckles, brooches, bracelets, needles, bodkins, pieces of silver supposed to be fragments of ring money, and smoking-pipes; the entire forming a most miscellaneous collection of objects apparently of entirely different eras. It appears that when storms prevail on that coast, the sand-hills, with which it is now in many parts encumbered, are blown away; and when such occur in the place mentioned, the remains of old buildings are exposed to view, in or near which, these articles, including the tokens, have been from time to time picked up. Some of these sand-hills, fully thirty feet in height, have been thus displaced with this result. Much of that part of Donegal having, in the beginning of the reign of James I., been granted to the Hart family, and an extensive portion of it, including the manor of Ballynass, the locality in which these remains of houses are discovered, having been subsequently, or about the year 1634, conferred by royal patent on Wybrants Olphert, the ancestor of the present possessor, it has been supposed that one of those families (most probably the former, the latter having been of Dutch origin) induced English settlers to take up their abode in this place, and that these are the ruins of their habitations. The spot on which they are, however, being exactly opposite the island of Torry, where there is still the most direct and constant communication between it and the mainland, and the tradition of the country assigning great antiquity to them, there is little doubt, taking into account the ecclesiastical remains on that interesting island, the numerous objects of antiquity discovered at the houses, and other circumstances, that tradition is in this instance a true guide, and that the buildings are of far older date than the era of tokens, or the "Ulster plantation." It is not quite correct to call them "buildings," as no walls in reality remain, but heaps of stones, some apparently as if all burnt, others in a circle, with a place inside formed for a fire; but the whole evidently the confused ruins of the abodes of men. It is, therefore, conjectured, with every appearance of probability, that the first English settlers, the descendants of many of whom are still in the country, located themselves on that part of the coast which the natives had before occupied. This belief is induced by the tradition; but still more by the finding in conjunction, or in close neighbourhood, such a medley of antiquarian objects, some certainly recent, others belonging, in the opinion of inquirers, to an age the most remote. A continued occupation from a very distant time in this place, would seem to be in a measure established; the unresisted encroachment of nature finally bringing it to a close.

This digression from the subject of tokens will be excused for the interesting facts it communicates. The other objects found with those now figured may form the subject of future description and illustration. The tokens themselves do not present any remarkable features beyond the circumstance of having been hitherto undescribed. They, as well as the Lisburn token, are all without date; but they are also of the 17th century. Two are of Derry, one of Rathmullen, and the fourth of "Deneygall," as it is spelled on the coin. There are some letters on the last named, but most of them are illegible. They express, it may be supposed, the occupation of William Wigston, the issuer, or more minutely describe his place of residence; but I am unable even to guess at their actual meaning. It is highly probable, that additional tokens as well as other articles more valuable and curious still, will turn up in this locality; and it is to be hoped they will be carefully preserved to assist in illustrating the past state of a part of Ulster not so much known as it should be, but believed to be, like many others, a fertile field for historical and antiquarian research. G. B.

ANCIENT IRISH INCOME.

Among many circumstances of contrast between an Irish chief and an English earl of the 16th century, the most marked is the difference in their revenues or fiscal power. Large money rents which increased with time, and agricultural services, comprised the returns of the *land*-lord. But the financial resources of the *clan*-lord cannot be so shortly described, because, as the clansmen were the *owners* and occupiers of the country, their chieftain's receipts were rather in the nature of salary than revenue; and the term "fiscal" is hardly descriptive of them (few being bursal) or of his exactions and imposts authorised by custom. In brief, his income, as contrasted with the Englishman's, consisted in small and unincreasable chief rents, *càins* or fines, "black rent," shares of *erics*, received mostly in the shape of produce and cattle; and, as a large addition to these personal receivings, there were multifarious services, the nature of some of which may now be examined.

Returns from tenants accrued to the more powerful chiefs who enjoyed mensal land as an appanage of their office; but others were almost landless, for, by the fundamental law of gavel, the chieftain was entitled to no more than equality, and all that he received beyond this arose from customs. To understand the origin of these customs, those of a very early age must be referred to.

Under primordial Gaelic polity, the ruler of a tribe, besides being debarred from the expectation that his office might be made heritable, was particularly forbidden to retain anything as his own, lest he should be tempted by avarice; and he was compelled to be equitable by the law of gavel or equality, which was so strict that "all things belonged to all." "But he was maintained at the public expense."[a]

[a] Solinus.